From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: EU Hits Qualcomm With $272 Million Antitrust Fine
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:12:14 AM

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Bakersfield. Think before you click!

By Sam Sabin

Out today: The latest editions of Morning Consult's Senator Approval Rankings and Governor Approval Rankings.

Top Stories

- The European Union's competition officials fined Qualcomm Inc. 242 million euros ($272 million) for abusing its market power to drive a competitor out of business and stifling competition in the baseband chips market. This is the American chipmaker's second fine from EU regulators in 18 months after Qualcomm, which plans to appeal the fine, was hit with a

$1.2 billion fine in January 2018 for payments made to Apple Inc. at the expense of Intel Corp. (The Wall Street Journal)

- President Donald Trump said he was interested in looking into the procurement process for the Pentagon's Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure contract after learning that some Republican members of Congress and military leaders were concerned that the terms of the cloud-computer contract were designed to freeze some companies out of the competition, according to two people familiar with the matter - though he did not say whether he'd prevent the contract from being awarded to one of the two finalists: Amazon.com Inc. and Microsoft Corp. (Bloomberg)

- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation calling for the agencies to investigate FaceApp, a viral photo editing app designed by a Russian-based developer, saying that he has "serious concerns" about how user data is protected and aggregated. The letter was sent the same day the Democratic National Committee warned its party's presidential campaigns not to use the app, according to a source familiar with the matter. (NBC News)

Chart Review

Buttigieg Tops Warren in Drawing the Most Donations From Big Tech's Employees in Q2
Morning Consult

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

07/18/2019

Microsoft Inspire

Automated Vehicles Symposium 2019

Chamber of Digital Commerce's Congressional Blockchain Day

House Judiciary's intellectual property subcommittee's

hearing on threats to the trademark system	9:00 am
Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute's event on the role of technology in the US-China trade war	11:30 am
New America's "The Future of Free Expression Online in America" panel discussion event	12:00 pm
Qualcomm 5G reception on the Hill	4:30 pm

07/19/2019

FCC Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council's first meeting	1:00 pm

07/23/2019

Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on the enforcement of antitrust laws	2:30 pm

07/24/2019

Politico event on Unlocking the AI Data Puzzle in the Federal Government

View full calendar

Understanding Gen Z: The Definitive Guide to the Next Generation

Based on nearly 1,000 survey interviews with 18-21 year-olds, Morning Consult's 'Understanding Gen Z' report digs into the values, habits, aspirations, politics, and concerns that are shaping Gen Z adults and the ways they differ from the generations that came before them.

Download the full report →

General

G7 urges strict Libra regime, eyes minimum tax
Leika Kihara and David Lawder, Reuters

Digital currencies like Facebook's Libra must be held "to the highest regulatory standards" to ensure they are not used to launder money and that users are protected, a Group of Seven taskforce urged on Thursday. The conclusions came as G7 finance ministers meeting in Chantilly, France, agreed to address tax challenges raised by the digital economy and to push ahead with plans for a minimum corporate tax level, according to a draft summary of the two-day meeting seen by Reuters.

SF Supervisor Mar to pull IPO tax from ballot, replace with similar measure
Trisha Thadani and Emily Fancher, San Francisco Chronicle

Supervisor Gordon Mar plans to pull a proposed tax on stock-based compensation - dubbed the IPO tax - from the November ballot and will instead put a similar business tax on the November 2020 ballot.

Google will build 15,000 Silicon Valley homes as part of a $15 billion project
Sherisse Pham, CNN

Google is teaming up with an Australian developer to build $15 billion worth of homes, offices and retail space in the San Francisco Bay Area. Lendlease will work with Google for the next 10 to 15 years to redevelop the US tech company's landholdings in San Jose, Sunnyvale and Mountain View, the Sydney-based company said in a statement Thursday.

Tesla floats fully self-driving cars as soon as this year. Many are worried about what that will unleash.
Faiz Siddiqui, The Washington Post

Tesla is promising to launch "full self-driving" capabilities to hundreds of thousands of cars through an over-the-air update as soon as this year. But its push to put the features - largely unregulated and unproven on real-world roads - in the hands of American drivers is putting industry executives and regulators on edge.

Elizabeth Holmes Wins Judge's Backing in Getting FDA Documents Faster
Joel Rosenblatt, Bloomberg

Theranos Inc. founder Elizabeth Holmes wants millions of documents from regulators to formulate her defense against criminal fraud charges. On Wednesday she got some help from a federal judge cutting through what her lawyer has called the "regulatory haze" in her way.

Silicon Valley has found its presidential candidate in Andrew Yang
Jennifer Elias, CNBC

Just before Elon Musk unveiled his latest plan for brain implants in San Francisco Tuesday night, people waiting for the live-stream to begin watched the comment section flood with "Yang Gang" and "Yang 2020!" The terms described Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang, who was trending on Google Search.

Amazon's Most Ambitious Research Project Is a Convenience Store
Brad Stone and Matt Day, Bloomberg

In the fall of 2015, Amazon executives in charge of a top-secret project to revolutionize grocery stores invited Jeff Bezos to evaluate their work. They'd leased a warehouse in south Seattle and converted part of the ground floor into a 15,000-square-foot mock supermarket, with plywood walls, shelves, and turnstiles, mimicking technology that would scan shoppers' smartphones when they walked in.

After Netflix's Prices Go Up, Its U.S. Subscriptions Go Down
Edmund Lee, The New York Times

Netflix, the streaming juggernaut that has upended the entertainment industry, showed signs of vulnerability Wednesday when it reported that it had lost 126,000 paid subscribers in the United States during the second quarter. It was the first time the company had shed domestic streaming customers since it started its digital service 12 years ago.

Stocks Mixed Amid Earnings Misses, Trade Angst: Markets Wrap
Todd White, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures and European stocks trimmed an earlier decline as

investors weighed the outlook for corporate earnings and global trade. Treasuries edged down.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

In Google Fight, Yelp's Antitrust Crusader Now Has Company
Ashley Gold, The Information

Luther Lowe, Yelp's head of public policy, for years has sought to convince regulators that Google had been allowed to become too powerful and should be reined in. For just as long, regulators largely ignored his complaints.

Big Tech told Congress it has plenty of competitors. It's crushing them all.
Rani Molla and Peter Kafka, Vox

Congress grilled representatives from Big Tech companies Tuesday during a much-anticipated antitrust hearing, asking about everything from the size of their businesses to their potentially anti-competitive practices. The hearing came amid scrutiny from federal agencies, as well as calls by some politicians to break up or at least more strictly regulate the most valuable companies in the world.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Boost Mobile marketing team hit with layoffs
Bevin Fletcher, FierceWireless

Rumors surfaced yesterday that most of the marketing team at Sprint's Boost Mobile brand had been laid off, at a time when the prepaid wireless provider is at the center of Justice Department discussions weighing approval of Sprint and T-Mobile's proposed merger. In response to request for confirmation and comment about the rumors, a Sprint spokesperson sent the following statement to FierceWireless via email: "To enhance our efficiency and nimbleness while we continue to aggressively compete in the Prepaid Wireless industry, we recently made some organizational changes to ensure our Prepaid business is structured appropriately."

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Maxine Waters says her committee will call in Zuckerberg to testify about Libra
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) is planning to call in Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to testify about his company's new digital currency project Libra, Waters told The Hill on Wednesday. Waters had floated the idea during a House Financial Services Committee hearing earlier in the day and later confirmed it is something the Democrats on the committee plan to pursue.

Google removes stalkerware apps after researchers discover trackers on Play Store
Alfred Ng, CNET

You'd think it would be difficult to find an app that can secretly track a person's every move. But researchers have found them right in the open on Google's Play Store.

2 days after an Instagram star's brutal killing went viral, YouTube is still hosting images of her body
Jake Kanter, Business Insider

Two days after the killing of an Instagram star with thousands of followers shocked the internet, YouTube has failed to remove multiple videos featuring images of her mutilated body from the platform. Bianca Devins, 17, was killed in the early hours of Sunday morning in the city of Utica, New York.

Instagram will now hide likes in 6 more countries
Greg Kumparak, TechCrunch

Would the internet be a better place if we all paid a little less attention to fake internet points? Instagram is still trying to figure it out.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Oakland city council votes to ban government use of facial recognition
Colin Lecher, The Verge

The Oakland city council voted last night to pass an ordinance banning city agencies from using facial recognition technology. The move sets up Oakland to become the third city in the United States to pass similar legislation.

Senate passes bill making hacking voting systems a federal crime
Jordain Carney, The Hill

The Senate passed legislation on Wednesday night that would make it a federal crime to hack into any voting systems used in a federal election. The bill, known as the Defending the Integrity of Voting Systems Act, passed the chamber on Wednesday night by unanimous consent, which requires the sign off of every senator.

House panel advances bill to protect elections from foreign interference
Maggie Miller, The Hill

The House Foreign Affairs Committee advanced legislation on Wednesday intended to safeguard elections from foreign interference, sending it to the House floor for a vote following a heated debate among lawmakers over the bill. The Safeguard Our Elections and Combat Unlawful Interference in Our Democracy Act, or the SECURE Our Democracy Act, was approved by voice vote after an hour of back-and-forth between committee members regarding the scope of the bill.

Microsoft Data Shows Hackers Still Targeting U.S. Elections
Alyza Sebenius and Kartikay Mehrotra, Bloomberg

State-backed hackers have attempted to infiltrate targets related to U.S. elections more than 700 times in the past year, furthering concerns about potential meddling in upcoming races, according to a blog posted Wednesday by Microsoft Corp.

FTC Seeks Input on Need to Update COPPA
John Eggerton, Broadcasting & Cable

The Federal Trade Commission is seeking comment on 2013 updates to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act Rule (COPPA Rule) and whether more changes are needed. The FTC says it usually reviews rules every 10 years but technological changes are driving the earlier review to make sure children are

being protected.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Facebook's regulation dodge: Let us, or China will
Josh Constine, TechCrunch

Facebook is leaning on fears of China exporting its authoritarian social values to counter arguments that it should be broken up or slowed down. Its top executives have each claimed that if the U.S. limits its size, blocks its acquisitions or bans its cryptocurrency, Chinese company's absent these restrictions will win abroad, bringing more power and data to their government.

Is FaceApp an evil plot by 'the Russians' to steal your data? Not quite
Arwa Mahdawi, The Guardian

Over the last few days the #faceappchallenge has taken over social media. This "challenge" involves downloading a selfie-editing tool called FaceApp and using one of its filters to digitally age your face

Don't Scoff at Influencers. They're Taking Over the World.
Kevin Roose, The New York Times

When the first TikTok star is elected president, I hope she will save some room in her cabinet for older and more conventional bureaucrats, even if they don't have millions of followers, great hair or amazing dance moves. I say "when," not "if," because I just spent three days at VidCon, the annual social media convention in Anaheim, hanging out with a few thousand current and future internet celebrities.

Tech journalism's 'on background' scourge
Brian Merchant, Columbia Journalism Review

One of the most pernicious tools that Silicon Valley uses to control the flow of information to the public is decidedly low-tech: briefing reporters "on background." According to the Associated Press, an on background arrangement with a reporter means that "information can be published but only under conditions negotiated with the source.

Research Reports

U.S. Business Wireline Satisfaction Study

J.D. Power

The services offered by telecommunication providers are at the core of every business-from small start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. This business lifeline between service providers and their business customers must be virtually free of any downtime, reasonably priced, and supported by superior customer service.

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